

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF NEVADA

Leonard R. Woods,

Petitioner

v.

Jeremy Bean, *et al.*,

Respondents

Case No.: 2:23-cv-00233-JAD-VCF

**Order Granting Motion for Leave to File
Exhibit Under Seal**

[ECF No. 19]

Counseled petitioner Leonard R. Woods filed a first amended petition for writ of habeas corpus on September 6, 2023,¹ along with supporting exhibits.² He also filed a motion for leave of court to file one of his exhibits under seal, and he filed the exhibit in question under seal.³ Respondents did not respond to Woods's motion.

While there is a strong presumption in favor of public access to judicial filings and while courts prefer that the public retain access to them,⁴ a court may seal its records if a party demonstrates "compelling reasons" to do so.⁵ "Compelling reasons" exist where the records could be used for improper purposes.⁶ The exhibit that Woods proposes to file under seal is a PowerPoint presentation, which was used at his trial, and which includes an autopsy photo depicting a nude body.

¹ ECF No. 17.

² ECF No. 18.

³ ECF Nos. 19, 20.

⁴ See *Nixon v. Warner Communications, Inc.*, 435 U.S. 589, 597 (1978).

⁵ See *Kamakana v. City & Cty. of Honolulu*, 447 F.3d 1172, 1178–79 (9th Cir. 2006).

⁶ *Id.* at 1179 (citing *Nixon*, 435 U.S. at 598).

1 I find that there are compelling reasons for the exhibit to be filed under seal. So, IT IS
2 ORDERED that Woods's motion for leave to file exhibit under seal [ECF No. 19] is
3 **GRANTED**. As the exhibit in question—Exhibit 3—has already been filed under seal, the Clerk
4 of Court is directed to **MAINTAIN THE SEAL on ECF No. 20**.

5 IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that **Jeremy Bean is substituted for Brian Williams as**
6 **the respondent warden** under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 25(d). The Clerk of the Court is
7 directed to update the docket to reflect this change.

8 
9 U.S. District Judge Jennifer A. Dorsey
September 29, 2023